



Further, in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(c) and 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that the references listed on the enclosed form PTO-1449 were cited in the International Search Report dated January 23, 1998 for the counterpart PCT application. As such, the filing of the instant Information Disclosure Statement is within three months of the date of that International Search Report and, therefore, need not be accompanied by the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). A copy of the International Search Report for the counterpart PCT application is enclosed herewith.

The foregoing reference is not believed to disclose the invention as claimed. Nothing herein shall constitute an admission concerning the contents of the cited reference, nor shall the inclusion of a reference herein be considered an admission that the reference constitutes prior art against the invention claimed in the above-identified application. Submission of the present document shall not be construed as an admission that a search has been made or that better art does not exist.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, including extension or petition fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1300 (Our Order No. A-55320-2/RFT/MTK).

Respectfully submitted,

FLEHR HOHBACH TEST  
ALBRITTON & HERBERT LLP



Mark T. Kresnak, Ph.D.  
Reg. No. P-42,767

Four Embarcadero Center  
Suite 3400  
San Francisco, CA 94111-4187  
Telephone: (415) 781-1989